

Summary for the 11-28-06 E-Communities Community Outreach Meeting

Date, Location and Attendance:

Tuesday November 28, 2006
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Martin Luther King Center
22 citizens

Accomplishments

- Listed the computer needs of the group
- Listed the obstacles preventing the community from using the internet successfully
- Listed the things that could be done to help overcome obstacles to internet use and meet community computer needs

Community Input

What are your compute needs?

- Wireless access in the downtown area
- More information on the wireless capabilities in the a downtown area
- More basic computer training offerings
- Free computer training
- Training for parents on how to set up computer security against viruses and spyware
- Community facilities to house computers and provide computer access to the community
- A list of where computer access is available to the community with times and days available
- Being able to connect to elected officials through the internet
- How to use the internet to increase membership to organizations

What is preventing you from using the internet successfully?

- Cost of access
- Cost of equipment
- Fear of identity theft
- Knowledge of how to use computers and access the internet safely
- Lack of free training on how to use the internet
- Fear of government intervention and invasion of privacy
- Not being aware of the business opportunities that are available
- Not enough opportunity to learn about the internet and how it can be valuable

What could be done to help you to better use the internet?

- Locate internet hot spots at city facilities such as Maides Park and MLK Center
- Have large wireless coverage in the city
- Have computer training classes for the elderly
- Have a class on internet security and safety
- Classes for adults to train them on how to know what their children are doing on the internet
- Website design classes for business
- City provide web hosting
- Provide information on how to get low cost equipment and internet access
- City sponsored, low cost payment plans
- City based lease program for computers
- Line up grants for non-profit organizations to be able to provide computer labs with internet access
- Information on how to shop for computers and get the most for the money
- Free training for business owners on business applications
- Partnering program with UNCW and CFCC on training and trainers (internships)
- Provide testimonials of computer success stories
- Grants to help put computers in homes of first time home buyers
- Provide computers as incentives to students for good grades
- Provide information on self-help resources provided on line

Summary for the 12-2-06 E-Communities Community Outreach Meeting

Date, Location and Attendance:

Saturday November 28, 2006

11:00 - 1:00 PM

Community Boys and Girls Club

31 citizens

Accomplishments

- Listed the computer needs of the group
- Listed the obstacles preventing the community from using the internet successfully
- Listed the things that could be done to help overcome obstacles to internet use and meet community computer needs

Community Input

What are your compute needs?

- Need a computer for writing research papers
- Need a computer to do business
- Need training for the elderly on computers
- Need better accessibility to computers for the elderly
- Education on how to use the internet applications properly
- Need computers to be successful in college
- Need computers for on-line bill paying
- Need computer for doing on-line job searches
- Need the computer and internet to stay connected to important information
- Computer is a way of keeping up with changes in the community
- Need a computer for record keeping
- Need a computer at home for 24 hour access
- Need a computer to better assess public education and classes
- Need a computer for word processing
- Can get access to teachers online

What is preventing you from using the internet successfully?

- Access to certain websites are blocked
- Cost of equipment
- Lack of knowledge on how to use the internet properly
- Need to have a phone, cable, wireless connection
- Security issues (identity theft)
- Viruses
- Internet predators
- Power surges
- Time limits put on public access computer centers

What could be done to help you to better use the internet?

- Put wireless access in more communities
- Secure grants for facilities and for training
- Provide transportation to computer access points
- Reduce fees for internet access
- Help people to afford computers and put them in homes
- Employers should help provide computers to employees for the home
- Pre-wire housing for computers
- Public/Private partnerships to off-set the cost of the internet
- Provide lower cost options for purchasing laptops (low interest payment plans)
- Public housing should have access in the community centers and individual units wired for computers
- Affordable housing providers should pre-wire houses for computers